

# SUNDAY SUN

torontosun.com

## FAME'S DARK SHADOWS

Part 1 of Bill Lankhof's special SUN MEDIA series



SPORTS PULLOUT

Check Your Numbers



www.OLG.ca

Teen fight ends with 2 dead PAGE 3



# HOW DOES YOUR SCHOOL RATE?

**SUN EXCLUSIVE:** 12-PAGE PULLOUT

Report cards on 1,031 GTA elementary schools

MICHAEL PEAKZ/SUN MEDIA



### The 2009 Subaru Forester

Motor Trend's 2009 Sport/Utility of the Year

FROM \$25,795\*

LEASE AND FINANCE FROM 2.9%\* FOR 24 MONTHS AUTOSHOW SPECIAL

Japanese SUVs just got a little sexier.



For the Subaru dealer nearest you, visit [ontario.subarudealer.ca](http://ontario.subarudealer.ca) or call 1-800-876-4AWD.

See category 1006 in Classifieds for complete details.

DURHAM



REPORT CARD

# 'Nobody' becomes somebody

## School spirit and developing identity part of learning process at Pringle Creek

JENNY YUEN  
Sun Media

stuffed doll who doesn't have an identity at first, but it's up to the students to make him a "somebody" through good deeds. After each initiative, the kids put a souvenir on the doll to give him an identity.

### Received a war pin

To date, "Nobody" has helped with Unicef donations and received a war pin after one student wrote letters to a Canadian veteran.

"It helps with academics, the kids are writing about (what they did) in a scrapbook afterwards," Lunn explained.

WHITBY — Academics may come first at Pringle Creek, but school spirit comes a close second.

Aside from your typical extra-curricular activities, principal Sue Lunn said the focus at the school is to develop the whole child using four key factors: literacy, numeracy, safe school and student success.

One cool character-building initiative among the Grade 3 classes is "Who is Nobody," a

"They're talking to people, making contact with communities. It's a relationship-building initiative. There's the literacy that ties into it, the numeracy when they're counting the money and it ties into our character education."

Keegan McGonigal, 8, is one of the Grade 3 students who is working on making "Nobody" a real person. He's collecting cell phones because they contain the coltan mineral, which miners are looking for in the Congo. As a result, gorillas are being poached to feed the miners. It's McGonigal's hope to stop the killings.

"We can use that mineral over again in a different cell phone and it'd save the habitat and gorillas," he said. "We're doing this to help ourselves."

The school, which has 525 students from JK to Grade 8, is among the top schools in Durham region, according to the Fraser Institute study.

### Top marks

Pringle Creek also earned top marks in the most recent Education Quality and Accountability Office tests. Its Grade 3 and 6 students were well above the provincial standard in reading, writing and math. Parent volunteers also come into the school to help with remedial reading and writing under teacher supervision. Through the Parent Outreach Grant, the school invested \$1,000 to develop library resources for parents to read up on how they can better help students.

"We have a resource room here, and every year, we put a lot of money into the resource room based on what teachers think will help," Lunn said. "We're lucky that our scores are high and we have a lot of initiatives in place to support that. We really focus on the whole child."

In one Grade 2 class, there is an ongoing Survivor theme to engage the students. Teacher



### IMPROVING



10 fastest improving Durham area schools over most recent five years with fastest improving school listed first:

School	City
Immaculate Conception	Port Perry
St. Francis de Sales	Ajax
St. Theresa	Whitby
St. Anthony Daniel	Pickering
St. John Bosco	Oshawa
St. John the Evangelist	Whitby
St. Isaac Jogues	Pickering
St. Jude	Ajax
Lord Elgin	Ajax
West Lynde	Whitby

### DECLINING

10 fastest declining Durham area schools over most recent five years with fastest declining school listed first:

School	City
Glen Street	Oshawa
Thorah Central	Beaverton
Lakewoods	Oshawa
Kedron	Oshawa
Dr C F Cannon	Oshawa
Cadarackque	Ajax
Ormiston	Whitby
Elizabeth B Phin	Pickering
Adelaide McLaughlin	Oshawa
Notre-Dame-de-la-Jeunesse	Ajax

MICHAEL PEAKE/SUN MEDIA

Keegan McGonigal, 8, at Pringle Creek Public School in Whitby with one of their Nobody dolls that kids make a "somebody" with good deeds.

Sheila Jakowec raises a tiki torch and signals the students to go to "tribal council," a corner area of the classroom that could double for a Polynesian hut at first glance. One student hugs a stuffed monkey as Jakowec asks the class ques-

tions about a storybook.

"It promotes cooperation," Jakowec said. "It makes it more fun and makes them more engaged."

Lunn emphasized that she wants to make Pringle Creek inclusive to everyone.

"If you're not a sports person, we have music," she said. "If that's not your cup of tea, we have different kinds of clubs. Students can shine in all areas."

jenny.yuen@sunmedia.ca

### TOP 10 DURHAM SCHOOLS IN 2007/2008



School name	Affiliation	City	Overall rating 2007/08
Immaculate Conception	Catholic	Port Perry	9.7
St. Anthony Daniel	Catholic	Pickering	8.9
Holy Redeemer	Catholic	Pickering	8.8
Our Lady of the Bay	Catholic	Pickering	8.8
St. Francis de Sales	Catholic	Ajax	8.6
Pringle Creek	Public	Whitby	8.5
William Dunbar	Public	Pickering	8.4
Jean-Paul II	Catholic	Whitby	8.3
Dr S J Phillips	Public	Oshawa	8.2
John XXIII	Catholic	Oshawa	8.2

### BOTTOM 10 DURHAM SCHOOLS IN 2007/2008

School name	Affiliation	City	Overall rating 2007/08
Glen Street	Public	Oshawa	2.0
Dr C F Cannon	Public	Oshawa	2.3
Village Union	Public	Oshawa	2.3
Monsignor Philip Coffey	Catholic	Oshawa	2.4
Thorah Central	Public	Beaverton	2.5
Beaverton	Public	Beaverton	2.6
Cartwright Central	Public	Blackstock	2.8
Lakewoods	Public	Oshawa	2.8
Woodcrest	Public	Oshawa	3.0
Queen Elizabeth	Public	Oshawa	3.0